

Horsemans starts Casuals' slide

Corinthian Casuals 0, Wycombe Wanderers 3

WYCOMBE failed to score in the first half of this Isthmian League clash against pointless Casuals at Sandy Lane on Wednesday, but headed the goal trail after the interval to move three points clear at the top of the table.

Wycombe's attack tended to bunch too much in the first half, and when Casuals broke away there was always the possibility that they would snatch a surprise goal.

Over elaboration on the part of the Wycombe's spoon-fed forwards enabled Casuals time to cover in depth and Casuals' goalkeeper, Chris Swain, was never seriously tested. In fact, it required two smart saves from goalkeeper O'Brien to prevent Casuals from going ahead.

SMOTHERED

Twice O'Brien smothered close-range shots from Richard Benest following a sharp counter-attack as Wycombe's rearguard was left open after servicing a squanderous attack.

After a Haydock-Alexander shot early in the second half, Wycombe at last began to fully utilise their greater speed and class by moving the ball. Three

times they struck with savage accuracy in the 60th, 64th and 68th minute. Goal number one had an element of luck about it, but the other two were superbly taken — suggesting Wycombe will be hard to knock off their lofty perch.

Swain parried an Anthony shot. Horsemans, lurking close by, fired the shot that struck Chris Joy and slowly crossed the line. Once ahead Wycombe looked twice the side that previously had lacked urgency near goal.

Baker pounced on a loose midfield ball for goal number two and, making ground, crossed for Searle to race on the inside of the Casuals' defence and net with a downward header.

It was Wycombe all the way now, and after a dribble down the touchline by Anthony, with a cleverly-pulled back pass, Horsemans placed a pin-point shot inches inside a post.

SAVE STOPPED

Swain's saves stopped Thomas' and Horsemans' efforts from registering further goals, but against sterner opposition Wanderers must learn that a 17-corner total gained from pressure—rather than quickly-made attacks—could be costly by over-committing the defence.

However, all's well that ends well, and with the evidence of their second half Wycombe could well take the championship-cup involvements aside—for Casuals were always trying, and against a lesser defence must surely have scored on two occasions.

Wycombe Wanderers: O'Brien; Rundle, Gale; Stephenson, Delaney, Thomas; Horsemans, Baker, Searle, Ward, Anthony.